

# IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

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## State Overview

### IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASED TO 5.7 PERCENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2003 was 5.7 percent, up three-tenths of a percentage point from the March revised rate of 5.4 percent. The current seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was one-tenth of a percentage point below the April 2002 rate of 5.8 percent. Unlike 2002, when the unemployment rates were consistently above the year-ago level, every month thus far in 2003 has posted a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate below the year-ago rate. Idaho's unemployment rate was below the national rate of 6.0 percent, which was also up two-tenths of a percentage point from March.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* decreased slightly in April from March. The number of unemployed persons increased by 2,100 to 39,400 in April. The number of employed persons decreased by 2,600 to 654,500. The changes in the number of persons unemployed and employed resulted in a *Civilian Labor Force* of 693,900 in April, down 500 from March 2003.

An increase in Idaho's unemployment rate was not a surprise because of the sluggish economy and the numerous small layoffs that have occurred. The cool, wet spring resulted in less outdoor activity, thus fewer seasonal job opportunities were available. Idaho employers, just like many of their counterparts nationally, were cautious about expanding their workforce or their businesses as consumer confidence continued to be weak. As a result, the number of available jobs could not satisfy the demand for work.

The year-over-year comparison offers some positive news. From one year ago, the number of persons employed increased by 9,100 and the number of persons unemployed decreased by 400. As a result of these changes, the labor force increased 1.3 percent, or 8,700, since April 2002.

### AREA AND COUNTY LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS

All eight multi-county Labor Market Areas (LMA) recorded higher unemployment rates in April than in March. The Panhandle LMA had the highest unemployment rate at 8.0 percent while the Seaport LMA had the greatest percentage point increase by rising from 3.6 percent in March to 4.4 percent in April. However, this significant jump in the Seaport LMA's unemployment rate was a result of only an additional 300 unemployed persons in a relatively stable labor force that had been ranging from about 35,000 to 36,500 for the last year. The unemployment rate increase was not attributed to one major event, but rather a

few job losses in most area industries. The Bonneville LMA had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.8 percent, an increase of two-tenths of a percent from March 2003.

Five counties experienced double-digit unemployment rates in April: Adams at 11.4 percent, Shoshone at 10.7 percent, Clearwater at 10.3 percent, Benewah at 10.2 percent, and Washington at 10.0 percent. Unemployment rates below 3.0 percent occurred during April 2003 in two counties: Owyhee at 2.2 percent and Madison at 2.0 percent. For the third time this year, Ada County's unemployment rate was above 5.0 percent with an April rate of 5.3 percent—an increase from the March rate of 5.1 percent.

### **Nonfarm Employment Highlights**

*State Table 2 on page 5 provides industry employment and comparisons to the previous month and year.*

Total *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 5,200 jobs for a new yearly high of 562,400 jobs. This was an increase of 0.9 percent from March 2003. Both the *Goods-Producing Industries* and the *Service-Providing Industries* sectors added jobs, 1,900 and 3,300, respectively.

The monthly increase from March to April was the third consecutive month in which *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased. From an estimated 550,400 jobs in January, employment has increased by 12,000 jobs, for a 2.2 percent increase. The same trend occurred in 2002 when 16,000 jobs were added from January through April—a 2.9 percent increase. However, the employment numbers were almost the same for 2002 and 2003, and this year's April total is only 200 above April 2002—an insignificant increase. Any job increase is welcomed as Idaho struggles to regain its job growth momentum of a couple of years ago, but the state still needs to add 17,200 more jobs to attain its record high of 579,600 jobs established in September 2002.

*Construction* led the employment gains in the *Goods-Producing Industries* by adding 2,100 jobs between March and April. The gains were spread throughout the industry with *Specialty Trade Contractors* accounting for 1,100 of the additional jobs. This industry continued strong during the winter months because the weather was relatively mild, interest rates were low, and real property continued to be considered an attractive investment. The warmer months usually show an increase in total *Construction* employment as road and bridge work begins its primary construction season. Compared to last year, *Construction* employment did not change very much as this industry has maintained a steady pace for the last few years even though there are seasonal swings.

Most of the other industries in the *Goods-Producing Industries* did not change much month-over-month either in numerical or percentage terms. The large percentage drop (-15.4 percent) in *Logging* was due to the loss of 200 jobs. The reasons for this loss are that some access roads and mountain sides were too muddy from the spring thaw to drive on and some federal forest cuts had not been approved or opened as yet, so loggers were unable to return to their jobs. Even if these reasons lapse, *Logging* is not expected to

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add a substantial number of jobs due to the depressed condition of Idaho's forest products industries.

For the second consecutive month, there was no change in employment in *Computer & Electronic Manufacturing*. In a way, this is good news. The industry was significantly affected by the national recession. From a high of about 25,000 jobs in 2000, employment declined both gradually or by major layoffs to the current 16,000 jobs level, last seen in February 1996. There is some good news, however, as some companies have announced future expansion plans. The question still remains, however, if the jobs level in this industry in Idaho has reached its lowest point.

*Food Manufacturing* is another industry that warrants close examination. Although spring is usually the low point in this industry, fewer jobs than usual are being reported or being filled, and future plant/shift closures have been announced. Potato processors are reducing capacity, most grain milling and processing is done out-of-state, and cheese factories are not expanding as rapidly as before. Food processing in general remains the state's second largest manufacturing industry but, as a source of jobs, it is expected to decline, at least for the near future.

The *Service-Providing Industries* also were quite stable from March to April. With the exception of a few industries, significant employment changes were due primarily to normal seasonal variations. It is somewhat unusual, however, that the *Service-Providing Industries'* month-over-month net growth rate of 0.7 percent was less than the 0.9 percent growth for all nonfarm industries. For a change, the *Goods-Producing Industries* far outpaced the *Service-Providing Industries*. Although the latter sector added almost twice the number of jobs than the combination of *Natural Resources*, *Construction*, and *Manufacturing*, the *Goods-Producing Industries'* month-over-month percentage change was almost three times that of the *Service-Providing Industries*.

Year-over-year, however, is a different story. Jobs in the *Service-Providing Industries* increased by 3,000 while the total number of nonfarm jobs increased by only 200, and the *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 2,800 jobs.

*Administrative and Support Services* added 900 jobs from March to April for a 3.0 percent growth rate. Some of this growth is seasonal as this industry includes landscaping/grounds maintenance services and similar warm weather activities at business sites.

State Table 1: April 2003 Labor Force (preliminary)				
Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
<b>Seaport LMA</b>	36,385	1,601	4.4	34,783
Nez Perce County	24,062	931	3.9	23,131
Asotin County, WA	12,323	670	5.4	11,653
<b>Boise City MSA</b>	247,785	14,193	5.7	233,592
Ada County	178,277	9,442	5.3	168,835
Canyon County	69,508	4,751	6.8	64,757
<b>Pocatello City MSA*</b>	41,295	2,152	5.2	39,143
<b>Bonneville LMA</b>	82,944	3,172	3.8	79,772
Bingham County	22,141	986	4.5	21,155
Bonneville County	49,111	1,705	3.5	47,406
Butte County	1,546	72	4.6	1,475
Jefferson County	10,145	410	4.0	9,736
<b>Cassia-Minidoka LMA</b>	20,285	1,513	7.5	18,771
Cassia County	10,160	671	6.6	9,490
Minidoka County	10,124	842	8.3	9,282
<b>Idaho-Lewis LMA</b>	8,463	662	7.8	7,801
Idaho County	6,940	598	8.6	6,342
Lewis County	1,523	64	4.2	1,459
<b>Panhandle LMA</b>	92,473	7,415	8.0	85,058
Benewah County	4,300	437	10.2	3,863
Bonner County	17,661	1,261	7.1	16,400
Boundary County	4,389	334	7.6	4,054
Kootenai County	59,693	4,696	7.9	54,997
Shoshone County	6,431	687	10.7	5,744
<b>Magic Valley LMA</b>	53,756	2,293	4.3	51,463
Gooding County	7,547	304	4.0	7,243
Jerome County	9,996	435	4.4	9,560
Twin Falls County	36,213	1,553	4.3	34,660
Adams County	1,758	201	11.4	1,558
Bear Lake County	3,112	170	5.5	2,943
Blaine County	12,554	498	4.0	12,057
Boise County	2,652	149	5.6	2,503
Camas County	475	40	8.3	436
Caribou County	3,217	255	7.9	2,962
Clark County	587	27	4.7	560
Clearwater County	3,814	395	10.3	3,419
Custer County	2,345	147	6.3	2,199
Elmore County	9,928	795	8.0	9,132
Franklin County	5,488	231	4.2	5,257
Fremont County	5,057	309	6.1	4,748
Gem County	6,097	495	8.1	5,602
Latah County	16,395	504	3.1	15,890
Lemhi County	3,963	285	7.2	3,678
Lincoln County	2,271	143	6.3	2,128
Madison County	11,949	237	2.0	11,712
Oneida County	1,812	82	4.5	1,730
Owyhee County	4,079	89	2.2	3,991
Payette County	9,713	822	8.5	8,890
Power County	3,221	277	8.6	2,944
Teton County	3,929	194	4.9	3,736
Valley County	4,131	350	8.5	3,781
Washington County	4,295	430	10.0	3,866
<b>State of Idaho</b>	<b>693,904</b>	<b>39,454</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>654,450</b>
<b>Idaho Cities</b>				
Boise	116,794	5,930	5.1	110,865
Coeur d'Alene	21,180	1,308	6.2	19,872
Idaho Falls	29,982	1,138	3.8	28,844
Lewiston	20,670	711	3.4	19,960
Nampa	21,341	1,572	7.4	19,769
Pocatello	30,044	1,561	5.2	28,482
Twin Falls	19,081	855	4.5	18,226

\* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

Yet, about 600 of the net additional jobs in this industry were a result of temporary help agencies hiring more contingent workers for other businesses. This type of increase, especially after an employment downturn, is often considered a sign that overall business conditions are improving. Employment also increased at call centers, but because there were some layoffs and site closures at a few contract call center operations, the net increase was just under 200 jobs.

*Food Services & Drinking Places* added 700 jobs in April. This industry usually starts to add jobs until it peaks in mid-summer. The 200-job loss in the *Accommodation* component of *Accommodation & Food Services* suggests, however, the adverse affects of September 11, the decline in business travel, and lowered consumer confidence are still lingering.

Somewhat atypical monthly job losses occurred in *State & Local Government*. Budget cutbacks and/or general concern in both the education and administration functions of government are the reason. Because these levels had been expanding in recent years, government employment is still generally above year-ago levels but monthly, non-seasonal job losses are expected to continue.

*Hospitals* employment has been stagnant since the beginning of 2002, while the more encompassing *Health Care & Social Services* industry has been adding jobs. *Hospitals* are confronted with rising costs and problematic revenues from third-party entities, such as medical insurance reimbursements rates that lag behind cost increases. Some hospitals are facing labor supply problems in the skilled nursing and medical technician occupations. Therefore, clinics and non-hospital care facilities have been responsible for the net increase in employment of medical personnel.

### **Agriculture**

Idaho agricultural producers added 6,770 workers to their workforce as the 2003 growing season began in earnest. Row crops were planted, irrigation began in some areas, controlling for weeds, bugs, and diseases started, and any harvested crops that remained in storage were either sold or disposed. The April agricultural employment level of 40,400 workers and operators should continue to increase through June as additional workers are hired.

The spring weather was mostly favorable for Idaho agricultural producers, especially those in the southern half of the state. In early April conditions were very favorable for planting and, for some

crops, the early planting occurred ahead of the five-year average schedule. Later in the month, a plentiful rainfall provided deep moisture to the fields and added to the stored water supply in the river systems. However, row crop planting was curtailed and ensuing colder weather caused some frost damage to emerging crops in southern Idaho. It was generally wet throughout April in northern Idaho and crop planting was delayed, especially for dry peas and lentils. Winter wheat development, however, progressed ahead of schedule.

A major infestation of Mormon Crickets began in southwestern Idaho this spring. These voracious insects devour many types of grasses and forage plants, and are especially harmful on rangeland. On farmland, growers can limit the insect's damage via pesticides applied under strict conditions.

Another major worry is pending: Will there be a 2003 drought? Governor Dirk Kempthorne, officials from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and representatives from various county commissions have determined that the probability is apparent enough that drought emergency declarations have been issued for twelve southern Idaho counties as of early June. Drought conditions are predicted based on water supply forecasts and projected water needs, particularly for agricultural irrigation. Under the declaration, irrigators in the affected counties can work with the Idaho Department of Water Resources to secure temporary water rights and make modifications to existing water rights.

Drought emergency declarations have been issued for Bingham, Blaine, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Lincoln, Madison, Oneida and Power Counties.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

% Change From

BY PLACE OF WORK	April 2003*	March 2003	April 2002	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	562,400	557,200	562,200	0.9	0.0
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	98,500	96,600	101,300	2.0	-2.8
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	2,800	3,000	2,700	-6.7	3.7
Logging	1,100	1,300	1,000	-15.4	10.0
Mining	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Metal Ore Mining	500	500	500	0.0	0.0
<b>Construction</b>	34,900	32,800	34,400	6.4	1.5
<b>Manufacturing</b>	60,800	60,800	64,200	0.0	-5.3
Durable Goods	37,400	37,400	39,900	0.0	-6.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	7,300	7,400	7,400	-1.4	-1.4
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	3,100	3,000	3,000	3.3	3.3
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,100	1,300	1,300	-15.4	-15.4
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,100	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,600	3,600	3,600	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	3,000	2,900	2,800	3.4	7.1
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	16,000	16,000	17,700	0.0	-9.6
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,200	2,100	2,100	4.8	4.8
Other Durable Goods	5,300	5,400	6,300	-1.9	-15.9
Nondurable Goods	23,400	23,400	24,300	0.0	-3.7
Food Manufacturing	15,600	15,600	16,200	0.0	-3.7
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	8,000	8,100	8,400	-1.2	-4.8
Paper Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,900	0.0	-5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	2,300	2,300	2,500	0.0	-8.0
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	463,900	460,600	460,900	0.7	0.7
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	112,600	111,900	114,600	0.6	-1.7
Trade	94,800	94,200	96,300	0.6	-1.6
Wholesale Trade	24,500	24,300	25,000	0.8	-2.0
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	11,700	11,600	11,500	0.9	1.7
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,300	11,300	11,700	0.0	-3.4
Retail Trade	70,300	69,900	71,300	0.6	-1.4
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10,400	10,300	10,600	1.0	-1.9
Building Material and Garden Equipment	7,800	7,400	7,800	5.4	0.0
Food & Beverage Stores	12,100	12,200	12,300	-0.8	-1.6
General Merchandise Stores	14,400	14,500	14,400	-0.7	0.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	17,800	17,700	18,300	0.6	-2.7
Utilities	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
Transportation & Warehousing	15,900	15,800	16,300	0.6	-2.5
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	8,000	8,000	7,800	0.0	2.6
<b>Information</b>	9,000	9,000	9,200	0.0	-2.2
Telecommunications	3,100	3,100	3,200	0.0	-3.1
<b>Financial Activities</b>	25,700	25,800	25,400	-0.4	1.2
Finance & Insurance	19,300	19,300	19,100	0.0	1.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	6,400	6,500	6,300	-1.5	1.6
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	69,200	68,200	68,700	1.5	0.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	28,600	28,600	28,600	0.0	0.0
Scientific Research & Development	7,100	7,100	7,300	0.0	-2.7
Management of Companies & Enterprises	8,500	8,500	8,600	0.0	-1.2
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	32,100	31,100	31,500	3.2	1.9
Administrative & Support Services	31,000	30,100	30,600	3.0	1.3
Educational & Health Services	62,200	61,800	59,800	0.6	4.0
Educational Services	7,200	7,300	6,900	-1.4	4.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	55,000	54,500	52,900	0.9	4.0
Hospitals	13,100	13,100	13,200	0.0	-0.8
Leisure & Hospitality	53,900	52,800	52,100	2.1	3.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,200	8,600	7,200	7.0	27.8
Accommodation & Food Services	44,700	44,200	44,900	1.1	-0.4
Accommodation	7,100	7,300	7,600	-2.7	-6.6
Food Services & Drinking Places	37,600	36,900	37,300	1.9	0.8
Other Services	17,200	17,100	17,800	0.6	-3.4
<b>Total Government</b>	114,100	114,000	113,300	0.1	0.7
Federal Government	12,600	12,200	12,800	3.3	-1.6
State & Local Government	101,500	101,800	100,500	-0.3	1.0
State Government	29,400	29,400	29,500	0.0	-0.3
State Government Education	14,500	14,700	14,400	-1.4	0.7
State Government Administration	14,900	14,700	15,100	1.4	-1.3
Local Government	72,100	72,400	71,000	-0.4	1.5
Local Government Education	38,600	38,900	37,800	-0.8	2.1
Local Government Administration	30,900	30,900	30,700	0.0	0.7
Local Government Tribes	2,600	2,600	2,500	0.0	4.0

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\* Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State Table 3: Economic Indicators

	April 2003	March 2003	April 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	693,900	694,400	685,200	-0.1	1.3
Unemployment	39,400	37,300	39,800	5.6	-1.0
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.7	5.4	5.8		
Total Employment	654,500	657,100	645,400	-0.4	1.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	689,500	687,700	680,600	0.3	1.3
Unemployment	41,600	43,600	41,800	-4.6	-0.5
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	6.3	6.1		
Total Employment	647,900	644,100	638,800	0.6	1.4
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>(2)</sup>	6.0	5.8	5.9		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>(2)</sup>					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	179.8	180.3	175.8	-0.3	2.3
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	183.8	184.2	179.8	-0.2	2.2
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	40,400	33,630	34,540	20.1	17.0
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	360	560	0.0	-35.7
Hired Workers	31,030	24,260	24,970	27.9	24.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	13,380	13,332	12,620	0.4	6.0
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	108,202	142,258	128,579	-23.9	-15.8
<i>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></i>					
Weeks Compensated	112,330	103,963	112,029	8.0	0.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$25,186,306	\$23,189,907	\$25,192,369	8.6	0.0
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$224.22	\$223.06	\$224.87	0.5	-0.3
Covered Employers	40,987	40,864	39,947	0.3	2.6
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$215,580,799	\$215,586,862	\$185,294,182	0.0	16.3

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities



# PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Job losses at manufacturing businesses in Kootenai County and neighboring Spokane County, Washington, where many Panhandle residents work, pushed the Panhandle seasonally adjusted unemployment rate from 7.3 percent in March to 8.0 percent in April. The unemployment rate jump forcefully made the point that the economic malaise that began in early 2001 continues to plague the Panhandle, as it does the nation. The unemployment rate may understate the current troubles in the labor market. It does not reflect many scenarios, such as people who lose jobs and then became independent contractors or started businesses that may not bring income near the wages they lost, people who are forced to accept early retirement, people whose work hours have been cut, people who are forced to accept part-time jobs when they would prefer full-time work, and people who take jobs for which they are overqualified. In addition, the unemployment rate does not include *discouraged workers*—workers who would like to work but have given up looking for work because job opportunities currently are limited. Because of discouraged workers dropping out of the labor force, the Panhandle's labor force fell from 92,720 in April 2002 to 92,140 a year later, even though the population continued to grow.

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in the Panhandle grew only 0.6 percent between April 2002 and April 2003, with most of the growth coming from private-sector *Health Care* providers; community hospitals in *Government Administration*; real estate firms, mortgage brokers, and other businesses in *Financial Activities* that are thriving because of the residential construction boom; and a variety of *Other Services*. For more details, see Panhandle Table 1.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Benewah County

- The Coeur d'Alene Tribe recently received a \$2.8 million federal grant to build a community technology center and offer broadband services to reservation residents. The technology center will be built near the tribe's headquarters in Plummer. Everyone who lives on the reservation, not just tribal members, will benefit from the technology center and broadband access. In addition to the center, broadband communication services will be provided to Benewah Medical Center, local schools, and other critical community facilities. The tribe also will develop a web portal to provide tribal members information about tribal government and local services. It may be used to teach and preserve the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's language, history, and culture. More than 6,700 people live on the reservation that covers most of western Benewah County and southern Kootenai County.
- The Hilltop Cedar shake mill near St. Maries was destroyed by fire May 25. Hilltop Cedar employs seven people. In addition to making shakes, Hilltop Cedar makes posts and rails. It is not known at this time whether the mill will reopen.

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	April 2003*	March 2003	April 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	92,480	91,680	92,920	0.9	-0.5
Unemployed	7,420	6,690	8,130	10.9	-8.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.0	7.3	8.7		
Total Employment	85,060	84,990	84,790	0.1	0.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	92,140	90,760	92,720	1.5	-0.6
Unemployed	8,850	9,050	9,550	-2.2	-7.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.6	10.0	10.3		
Total Employment	83,290	81,710	83,170	1.9	0.1
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	67,250	65,930	66,840	2.0	0.6
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	11,760	11,630	11,920	1.1	-1.3
Natural Resources & Mining	1,050	1,310	1,040	-19.8	1.0
Construction	4,060	3,620	4,050	12.2	0.2
Manufacturing	6,650	6,700	6,830	-0.7	-2.6
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,710	2,750	2,820	-1.5	-3.9
Other Manufacturing	3,940	3,950	4,010	-0.3	-1.7
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	55,490	54,300	54,920	2.2	1.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	12,840	12,870	12,970	-0.2	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	1,350	1,290	1,340	4.7	0.7
Retail Trade	9,910	9,900	10,060	0.1	-1.5
Utilities	380	360	370	5.6	2.7
Transportation & Warehousing	1,200	1,320	1,200	-9.1	0.0
Information	1,270	1,270	1,290	0.0	-1.6
Financial Activities	2,900	2,900	2,740	0.0	5.8
Professional & Business Services	6,570	6,280	6,580	4.6	-0.2
Educational & Health Services	6,800	6,760	6,530	0.6	4.1
Leisure & Hospitality	8,060	7,340	8,140	9.8	-1.0
Other Services	2,340	2,280	2,180	2.6	7.3
Government Education	5,230	5,230	5,180	0.0	1.0
Government Administration	8,480	8,370	8,340	1.3	1.7
Government Tribes	1,000	1,000	970	0.0	3.1

\* Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month



- Plummer, a city of 1,000 on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation along Highway 95, recently received a \$500,000 Idaho Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to upgrade its sewage system.

### **Bonner County**

- The City of Sandpoint recently received a \$500,000 CDBG toward a \$1 million facelift for its downtown, including new sidewalks, curbs, and lights, and the development of a town square with a fountain at Main Street and Third Avenue. A local improvement district and a resort sales tax will help pay the costs not covered by the grant. Construction is slated to begin in July.
- Sandpoint Furniture/Carpet One recently opened the Sandpoint Furniture Clearance Center at the Bonner Mall in Ponderay. It continues to operate its 58-year-old, 30,000-square-foot retail store at 401 Bonner Mall Way in Ponderay. The new 2,500-square-foot store, located across from GNC (General Nutrition Center), features furniture and carpets that have been discounted, closed out by the factory, repossessed, or slightly damaged. It's open three days each week.

### **Kootenai County**

- Costco plans to build a 135,000-square-foot warehouse store north of Neider Avenue between Fourth Street and Government Way in Coeur d'Alene. It plans to hire about 250 people when it opens in early 2004. It will be the Panhandle's first Costco store.
- Advanced Relational Technologies (ART) is anticipating strong sales growth after it introduces a new home version of its computer-aided drafting program for designing homes this summer. The company's program for professionals, Chief Architect, is an industry leader. ART's new software for home design and architecture will be easy to use for home users to create visions of their dream homes, and will be named Better Homes and Gardens Home Designer under a licensing agreement between ART and *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. ART currently is adding 10 employees, bringing its employment up to 45. It recently moved from a smaller space in downtown Coeur d'Alene into a 12,000-square-foot space on the first floor of the Hecla Mining building at 6500 North Mineral Drive.
- Walgreens plans to open a drugstore in Post Falls by November. It soon will break ground on a 14,400-square-foot store at the southwest corner of Seltice Way and Idaho Street, near the Kootenai Medical Center clinic. Walgreen's opened its first store in the Idaho Panhandle last year at the intersection of Highway 95 and Appleway in Coeur d'Alene. About 30 people will work at the Post Falls store.
- Coeur d'Alene recently welcomed these new businesses: Colorflex Bedliners, a company that sprays polyurethane coating on pickup truck beds to line them, at 4930 West Industrial Way; Passions by the Lake, a boutique selling artwork and specialty foods created by Panhandle residents, at 412 Sherman Avenue, Suite 104; Essence Photography, a studio specializing in black-and-white portraits, at 802 North Fourth

Street; Chantilly Lace, a full-service beauty salon and teahouse that also sells vintage hats and jewelry, at 505 Third Street; i.c. sweets, serving frozen custard ice cream, espresso, hot dogs, and other treats, at 602 East Sherman Avenue; Blue Rose Tattoo & Body Piercing at 510 North Fourth Street; Gladys Marie's Tea Shoppe & Gifts, a gift store with a drive-through for espresso and tea, at 1842 North Government Way; Market Café & Bakery, a restaurant serving organic foods and a sister business of Pilgrim's Natural Food, at 1401 North Fourth Street; Los Sanchez, a Mexican restaurant serving breakfast through dinner, in the former Godfather's Pizza building at 2605 North Fourth Street; The Marketing Department, a company that makes and distributes catalogs directing people to websites for products and services offered by its clients, at Lincoln Way and River Avenue; gForse Bikes, selling and repairing bicycles, at 1306 Best Avenue; Management Recruiters of Coeur d'Alene, an executive search firm that helps companies find management, engineering, and technical professionals, at 1621 North Third Street; Furniture Showroom, a warehouse-style retail store featuring home furniture, at 1311 Sherman Avenue; and Sacred Grounds, an espresso stand also offering drive-through weddings conducted by owner Reverend Al Peterson, at 356 East Appleway.

- New businesses in Kootenai County include Twin Lakes Realty at 14777 W. Highway 53 in Rathdrum; Greywolf Massage at 21 Commerce Drive in Hayden; Express Personnel Services, providing temporary staffing and permanent placement services for clerical, labor, professional, and technical occupations, at 1810 Schneidmiller Avenue Suite 220 in Post Falls; Garden Shack, providing landscaping and gardening supplies including topsoil, bushes, trees, and stones at 6808 West Seltice Way in Post Falls; The Seltice Marketplace, offering miniature golf, indoor soccer, go-carts, and a flea market at 3421 West Seltice Way; The Porch Public House, a pub owned by the owners of Moon Time Bistro in Coeur d'Alene and offering a similar menu, at 1658 Miles Avenue in Hayden Lake.

### **Shoshone County**

- The U.S. Small Business Administration recognized Brenda and Larry Stinson of Kellogg as the North Idaho Business Persons of the Year. The Stinsons opened the Silver Needle in 1979 to make protective gloves and other safety clothing for local miners. Over the years, they began selling safety clothing for a variety of industries around the globe. More than 30 people work at the Silver Needle.
- Silverton, an unincorporated town on Interstate 90 west of Osburn, recently received a \$475,000 CDBG to upgrade its sewage system, serving about 700 people.

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# SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in April to 4.4 percent, up eight-tenths of a percentage point from March's rate of 3.6 percent, as shown in Seaport Table 1. In April 2002, the rate was 5.3 percent. The *Civilian Labor Force* in April 2003 increased by only 80 workers from the previous month. Employment in the first four months of 2003 has remained flat with very little growth.

In April, Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 100 jobs from March 2003, but there was a decrease of 570 jobs from April 2002. The increase from last month was the result of a small increase in *Trade* employment. Recently, jobs have been lost in *Trade*, but in April a net gain was recorded in the *Retail* sector. Most of the new jobs in *Retail Trade* for the month came from existing businesses hiring a few employees as needed. Job losses occurred in all industries from one year ago.

## SPECIAL TOPIC: Projected Employment Opportunities

Through interviews and research, the Idaho Department of Labor has identified specific jobs as future employment opportunities. These include occupations that are the fastest-growing, have high employment, and are in high demand. These are also jobs for which employers are unable to find qualified applicants and include jobs emerging from new business in the region. A list of these projected employment opportunities are listed in Seaport Table 2 on page 23. They are listed alphabetically, not according to a ranking order. An evaluation of a broader list of 538 occupations can be found at the Idaho Department of Labor home page: <http://www.jobservice.us/lmi/wage-survey/TOC000.htm>.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Clearwater County

- Some Weippe residents are skeptical about projections that millions of

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	April 2003*	March 2003	April 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	36,380	36,300	35,010	0.2	3.9
Unemployment	1,600	1,300	1,840	23.1	-13.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	3.6	5.3		
Total Employment	34,780	35,000	33,170	-0.6	4.9
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	36,400	36,430	35,110	-0.1	3.7
Unemployment	1,620	1,560	1,870	3.8	-13.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.3	5.3		
Total Employment	34,780	34,870	33,240	-0.3	4.6
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	26,750	26,650	27,320	0.4	-2.1
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,290	4,320	4,330	-0.7	-0.9
Natural Resources & Mining	190	200	160	-5.0	18.8
Construction	960	950	990	1.1	-3.0
Manufacturing	3,140	3,170	3,180	-0.9	-1.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	540	570	580	-5.3	-6.9
Food Manufacturing	90	90	80	0.0	12.5
Paper Manufacturing	1,200	1,210	1,200	-0.8	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,310	1,300	1,320	0.8	-0.8
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	22,460	22,330	22,990	0.6	-2.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,060	5,960	6,070	1.7	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	620	620	620	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	4,120	4,040	4,110	2.0	0.2
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,230	1,210	1,250	1.7	-1.6
Information	360	360	370	0.0	-2.7
Financial Activities	1,830	1,830	1,800	0.0	1.7
Professional & Business Services	1,520	1,520	1,540	0.0	-1.3
Education & Health Services	3,830	3,830	4,030	0.0	-5.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2,590	2,580	2,710	0.4	-4.4
Other Services	1,230	1,190	1,210	3.4	1.7
Government Education	2,310	2,340	2,520	-1.3	-8.3
Government Administration	1,860	1,850	1,870	0.5	-0.5
Government Tribes	870	870	870	0.0	0.0

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

tourists will descend on the Clearwater River region in pursuit of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery bicentennial observance. "We think about it, but I kind of doubt it will be as fantastic as some people think it will be," said 76-year old Everet Martin, who has lived in Weippe since he was eight years old. Even so, Martin said the build-up to the bicentennial has injected new energy into the Weippe Prairie. A re-enactment of the historical meeting in 1805 between the Corps of Discovery and the Nez Perce Indians was performed in May. Visitors gathered outside the new Weippe Discovery Center to witness Captains Meriwether Lewis (Tim McNeil of Boise) and William Clark (Craig Rockwell of Clarkston) present a 15-star U.S. flag to a Nez Perce chief (Allen Pinkham of Lapwai). "I'm very pleased, on

behalf of the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, to present this flag, the star spangled banner," said Rockwell (as Clark). As the flag was raised, riflemen from the Corps of Discovery, played by members of the Lewis and Clark Bitterroot Corps muzzle-loading club of Moscow, fired their rifles into the air in a salute. "This place here," Pinkham said, "was Nez Perce land at one time . . . there is a rediscovery of friendship and camaraderie here that hasn't been felt for a long time." Pinkham said the bicentennial would be a good opportunity for the tribe to educate the public about the Nez Perce way of life, both before and after meeting Lewis and Clark. "We were here when Lewis and Clark got here, and we're still here," Pinkham said in his role as the Nez Perce chief. Dozens of people lined up at the Weippe City Library to form a human chain to transfer 60 books about the Corps of Discovery and the Nez Perce Tribe to the new Weippe Discovery Center, about a half mile away.

#### **Idaho & Lewis Counties**

- Nearly \$1.3 million in federal funds was awarded for several infrastructure projects in Idaho County that will benefit economic development. The grants include \$77,060 for improvements to the Tahoe emergency services facility and \$144,668 to construct a new community center in Greencreek. Stites has been awarded \$500,000 to connect the town into the Kooskia wastewater system. White Bird was also awarded \$500,000, which will be used for water system improvements. The grants will be matched by other federal and state dollars, and will be used for projects that meet both critical community needs as well as provide economic boosts. "Our goal is to put this money to work as quickly as possible," said Paul Anderson, chairman of the Idaho Economic Advisory Council (IEAC). Governor Dirk Kempthorne approved the grants, funded from an annual appropriation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on recommendations from the IEAC.

#### **Latah County**

- The University of Idaho's (U of I) fiscal emergency committee has asked acting President Brian Pitcher to slow down the school's University Place project in downtown Boise by delaying full occupancy of the Idaho Water Center, the first building of the project. The move would save approximately \$2.5 million. Future buildings associated with the project have been put on hold indefinitely due to the school's financial situation. Despite the Idaho Legislature's 2.1 percent increase to U of I's appropriation, which totals \$1.34 million after adjustments, the school still faces a \$6.4 million deficit next fiscal year. Delaying the move into the Water Center could make up one

third of that deficit, according to Wayland Winstead, U of I's executive director of institutional planning and budget. "We are deeply appreciative of the Governor and the Legislature for passing any increase in the higher education budget," Winstead said.

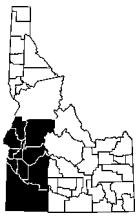
- Tourism on the Palouse (Latah County and Whitman County) is a much larger industry than many people realize, accounting for more than \$66 million in economic impact annually, according to the combined statistics of two recent studies from the U of I, and the Washington State Community Trade and Economic Development Office. The combined studies show revenues of \$18.35 million in food and beverage establishments, \$15.65 million in retail sales, \$11.08 million in accommodations, \$6 million in recreation, \$4.7 million in admissions and fees, \$7 million in transportation, \$2 million at food stores and \$1.4 million in wholesale trade within Whitman and Latah Counties. University events are a large part of the annual tourism dollars. As home to two universities—U of I and Washington State University (WSU)—the Palouse attracts tens of thousands of visitors for a host of collegiate athletic events and special event weekends. A recent study done for the WSU athletic department indicates that during a PAC-10 conference football weekend, more than \$1.4 million is spent, giving local businesses a boost. In recent estimates the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at the U of I resulted in more than \$4 million in economic impact.

#### **Nez Perce and Asotin Counties**

- The Idaho Legislature increased the Lewis Clark State College (LCSC) budget by 2.1 percent—half of what Governor Dirk Kempthorne requested, which will mean approximately \$745,000 more for the school after adjustments are made. "It's going to be a good year," said LCSC Budget Director Whitney Pugh. "We're not going to be able to give salary increases, which is not a good thing, but we are making some changes that show we're still here and moving on." Rising utility costs, audit charges, and market adjustments will use up most of the increase in LCSC's state appropriation. Operational expenses account for about \$345,000 of the increase in funding. Of the remaining funds, approximately \$225,000 will be used for academic affairs, and about \$75,000 for student affairs and administrative services. At least \$100,000 will be set aside in a reserve fund to help shield the school from any future budget cuts.

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# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for April 2003 was 5.7 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was two-tenths of a percentage point above the March 2003 rate of 5.5 percent and five-tenths of a percentage point above the April 2002 rate of 5.2 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons decreased by 1,000, or 0.4 percent, from March 2003, and the number of unemployed individuals increased by 400 individuals, or 2.9 percent. The decreasing number of persons employed and the increasing number of persons unemployed created an overall decrease of 600 individuals, or 0.2 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force*, from March 2003. Year-over-year, the number of employed persons has decreased by 3,600, or 1.5 percent, and the number of unemployed individuals increased by 1,200 individuals or 9.2 percent, creating a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 2,400 individuals from April 2002. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for April 2003 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2.

Treasure Valley Table 2: April 2003 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	178,277	9,442	5.3	168,835
Adams	1,758	201	11.4	1,558
Boise	2,652	149	5.6	2,503
Canyon	69,508	4,751	6.8	64,757
Elmore	9,928	795	8.0	9,132
Gem	6,097	495	8.1	5,602
Owyhee	4,079	89	2.2	3,991
Payette	9,713	822	8.5	8,890
Valley	4,131	350	8.5	3,781
Washington	4,295	430	10.0	3,866
Statewide	693,904	39,454	5.7	654,450

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon Counties

	April 2003*	March 2003	April 2002	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	247,800	248,400	250,200	-0.2	-1.0
Unemployment	14,200	13,800	13,000	2.9	9.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.7	5.5	5.2		
Total Employment	233,600	234,600	237,200	-0.4	-1.5
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	246,500	247,900	248,900	-0.6	-1.0
Unemployment	14,000	14,500	12,800	-3.4	9.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.7	5.8	5.2		
Total Employment	232,500	233,400	236,100	-0.4	-1.5
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	226,200	224,500	226,600	0.8	-0.2
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	45,000	44,400	46,500	1.4	-3.2
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</b>					
<b>Manufacturing</b>	29,800	29,900	31,200	-0.3	-4.5
Durable Goods	22,900	23,000	24,300	-0.4	-5.8
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,200	14,200	15,900	0.0	-10.7
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,700	1,600	1,600	6.3	6.3
Other Durable Goods	2,400	2,600	2,200	-7.7	9.1
Nondurable Goods	6,900	6,900	6,900	0.0	0.0
Food Manufacturing	5,200	5,100	5,200	2.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	1,100	1,000	-9.1	0.0
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	181,200	180,100	180,100	0.6	0.6
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>					
Trade	43,500	43,300	43,800	0.5	-0.7
Wholesale Trade	36,700	36,500	36,900	0.5	-0.5
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	10,400	10,400	10,100	0.0	3.0
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	6,600	6,600	6,300	0.0	4.8
Retail Trade	2,900	2,900	3,000	0.0	-3.3
Food & Beverage Stores	26,300	26,100	26,800	0.8	-1.9
General Merchandise Stores	4,000	4,000	4,100	0.0	-2.4
All Other Retail Trade	5,500	5,500	5,700	0.0	-3.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	16,800	16,600	17,000	1.2	-1.2
Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,900	0.0	-1.4
Transportation & Warehousing	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Information	6,100	6,100	6,200	0.0	-1.6
Telecommunications	3,600	3,500	3,700	2.9	-2.7
<b>Financial Activities</b>	1,400	1,400	1,300	0.0	7.7
Finance & Insurance	12,100	12,100	11,900	0.0	1.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,200	9,100	8,900	1.1	3.4
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	2,900	3,000	3,000	-3.3	-3.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	31,800	31,400	31,600	1.3	0.6
Management of Companies & Ent.	9,700	9,800	10,100	-1.0	-4.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	6,800	6,800	6,800	0.0	0.0
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	15,300	14,800	14,700	3.4	4.1
Educational Services	27,500	27,300	26,800	0.7	2.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,000	2,100	2,300	-4.8	-13.0
Hospitals	25,500	25,200	24,500	1.2	4.1
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	8,900	8,900	8,900	0.0	0.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	19,400	19,200	19,500	1.0	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	2,600	2,300	2,200	13.0	18.2
Accommodation	16,800	16,900	17,300	-0.6	-2.9
Food Services & Drinking Places	1,900	2,000	2,100	-5.0	-9.5
Other Services	14,900	14,900	15,200	0.0	-2.0
<b>Total Government</b>	6,600	6,600	6,700	0.0	-1.5
Federal Government	36,700	36,700	36,100	0.0	1.7
State & Local Government	5,300	5,400	5,200	-1.9	1.9
State Government	31,400	31,300	30,900	0.3	1.6
State Government Education	13,900	13,700	13,300	1.5	4.5
State Government Administration	4,300	4,300	4,400	0.0	-2.3
Local Government	9,600	9,400	8,900	2.1	7.9
Local Government Education	17,500	17,600	17,600	-0.6	-0.6
Local Government Administration	10,100	10,300	10,500	-1.9	-3.8
	7,400	7,300	7,100	1.4	4.2

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,700, or 0.8 percent, from March 2003 to April 2003, while over the year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* lost 400 jobs in the Boise City MSA. Month-over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 600 jobs; job decreases were noted in *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (-200 jobs) and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), while job gains were noted in *Natural Resources & Construction* (700 jobs), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100 jobs), and *Food Manufacturing* (100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 1,500 jobs, with *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100 jobs) and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200 jobs) the only industries to experience job gains, while job losses occurred in *Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction* (-100 jobs), and *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (-1,700 jobs).

In *Service-Providing Industries*, job gains outweighed jobs lost; 1,100 jobs were added from March 2003 to April 2003. Job gains were experienced in *All Other Retail Trade* (200 jobs), *Information Services* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (100 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (500 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (300 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (300 jobs), *State Government Administration* (200 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (100 jobs). Job losses were noted in *Real Estate & Rental & Leasing Services* (-100 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (-100 jobs), *Educational Services* (-100 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (-100 jobs), *Federal Government* (-100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (-200 jobs). Year-over-year, *Service-Providing Industries* gained 1,100 jobs, with job losses noted in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-100 jobs), *Food & Beverage Stores* (-100 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (-200 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (-200 jobs), *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (-100 jobs), *Information Services* (-100 jobs), *Real Estate & Rental & Leasing Services* (-100 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (-400 jobs), *Educational Services* (-300 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (-200 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (-300 jobs), *Other Services* (-100 jobs), *State Government Education* (-100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (-400 jobs). Job gains were noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (300 jobs), *Telecommunications Services* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (300 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (600 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (1,000 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (400 jobs), *Federal Government* (100 jobs), *State Government Administration* (700 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (300 jobs). The slow growth of jobs over the year is consistent with the downturn

and slow recovery that the national economy has been experiencing since January 2001.

#### **SPECIAL TOPIC: Per Capita Income Update**

The Bureau of Economic Analysis released Personal Per Capita Income (PCI) figures in May. Treasure Valley Table 3 shows the changes in PCI for all counties in Southwest Idaho. Blaine County is ranked number one, followed by Ada and Valley County. In terms of actual growth, from 2000 to 2001, Owyhee County had the largest percentage increase—4.7 percent—while Valley County showed the largest dollar increase at an increase of \$829. The PCI and state ranking among all counties in Southwest Idaho are as follows: Ada County (2) decreased \$225 to a PCI of \$33,739; Adams County (12) increased \$669 to a PCI of \$21,635; Boise County (29) increased \$318 to a PCI of \$19,502; Canyon County (34) increased \$29 to a PCI of \$18,690; Elmore County (21) increased \$756 to a PCI of \$20,919; Gem County (32) decreased \$241 to a PCI of \$19,263; Owyhee County (38) increased \$780 to a PCI of \$17,251; Payette County (27) increased \$809 to a PCI of \$19,956; Valley County (3) increased \$829 to a PCI of \$28,315; and Washington County (40) increased \$447 to a PCI of \$16,847. The state of Idaho had an increase of \$519 from 2000 to a 2001 PCI of \$24,506 and the United States increased \$653 to a PCI of 30,413 in 2001.

Treasure Valley Table 3: Per Capita Income					
	2000	2001	\$ change	% change	state rank
Ada County	\$ 33,964	\$ 33,739	\$(225)	-0.7	2
Adams County	\$ 21,635	\$ 22,304	\$669	3.1	12
Boise County	\$ 19,184	\$ 19,502	\$318	1.7	29
Canyon County	\$ 18,661	\$ 18,690	\$29	0.2	34
Elmore County	\$ 20,163	\$ 20,919	\$756	3.7	21
Gem County	\$ 19,504	\$ 19,263	\$(241)	-1.2	32
Owyhee County	\$ 16,471	\$ 17,251	\$780	4.7	38
Payette County	\$ 19,147	\$ 19,956	\$809	4.2	27
Valley County	\$ 27,486	\$ 28,315	\$829	3.0	3
Washington County	\$ 16,400	\$ 16,847	\$447	2.7	40
Boise City MSA	\$ 29,294	\$ 29,109	\$(185)	-0.6	
State of Idaho	\$ 23,987	\$ 24,506	\$519	2.2	
United States	\$ 29,760	\$ 30,413	\$653	2.2	

#### **AREA DEVELOPMENTS**

##### **Boise City MSA**

- For the fourth consecutive year, the Boise City MSA was ranked in Forbes Magazine's list of the 10 best places to do business and advance a career in America. The metropolitan area ranked second this year, compared to ranking sixth in 2002, seventh in 2001, and fifth in 2000. The ranking is based on eight business categories including

wage and salary growth, job growth, quality of life, high-tech clustering, access to capital, a pro-business government orientation, strong work ethic, universities, crime rates, and housing costs. Austin, Texas, was the only metropolitan area that ranked above the Boise City MSA on the fifth annual listing. Other areas in the top ten included: Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Madison, Wisc.; Provo, Utah; Omaha, Nebr.; Des Moines, Iowa; Dallas, Tex.; and Washington D.C.-Northern Virginia.

- Bekins Northwest closed its Boise operations center, at 970 River Street in early May. The closing left 20 people unemployed. Bekins officials cited a drop in revenue as the reason for the closure, blaming the weak economy and the slowing demand for moving services as factors that contributed to the drop in revenues. Employees affected by the closure were offered limited severance packages as well as given the opportunity to apply for other positions within the company.
- Hawaiian Vacations announced in mid-May that it would start a weekly nonstop flight service to Maui in November. About 202 passengers can be accommodated on the Boeing 757-200 that will fly the service. The weekly service will run on Saturdays.
- Hewlett-Packard Co. announced in mid-May that it would cut an additional 3,500 jobs in an effort to trim costs. Company officials did not state where the layoffs would occur, and no information has been released on whether the announcement would affect workers at the Boise campus.
- In early May, the state legislature approved \$68.5 million in public works construction projects, which included the first classroom building for the Boise State University-West campus. The building costs \$8.7 million and will be financed through long-term bonds issued by the State Building Authority.
- Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for a \$2.8 million, 55,000-square-foot expansion to Montgomery Fieldhouse. The new complex will include three basketball courts, cardiovascular and weight-training centers, an indoor baseball and softball diamond, running track, volleyball practice space, two guest and VIP suites, and additional office and classroom space. The expansion is scheduled for completion in March 2004.
- Lithia Ford announced plans to move into its new Boise complex in early August. The new dealership is under construction at the corner of Fairview and Maple Grove in Boise.
- Tom Scott Honda recently finished construction and landscaping on its new 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North dealership in Nampa. Tom Scott moved from its former facility at 3020 East Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell. The new dealership is larger than the previous location and features 10 service bays, which should speed customer service.
- The former Tom Scott Honda location at 3020 East Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell was purchased by Kane Automotive Group 2, which has announced plans to open a Kia dealership at the location in mid-June. Company officials also announced that construction is expected to start in mid-June on a 26,000-square-foot permanent facility near the Idaho Center in Nampa.
- Kachina Aviation announced that it would move its headquarters from Boise to Nampa later this year. The company will set up its new base for operations on land that was leased from the City of Nampa at Nampa Municipal Airport. Company officials have submitted construction plans for a new hangar and hope to move by November 1.
- The Caldwell YMCA recently opened an office at 911 Main Street. A fundraising campaign is underway as the facility is expected to cost between \$12 and \$14 million. At the kickoff, the Wittenberger Foundation donated \$180,000 for the new facility. The new YMCA will include youth activities, fitness centers, a climbing wall, and other activities. Groundbreaking is scheduled for September; the facility is scheduled to open in January 2005.
- Other recent business happenings in the Boise City MSA include the renaming of The Bon to The Bon-Macy's (starting August 1), the closing of Lookin' Sporty in the Northgate Shopping Center in Boise, the opening of Big Lots in the Cherry Plaza Shopping Center in Meridian, the opening of Pioneer Title at the Legends Building near the Idaho Center in Nampa, the opening of a shared-use commercial kitchen by the University of Idaho business incubator in Caldwell, the reopening of Alsip & Persons Funeral Chapel after completion of its recent renovations in Nampa, the reopening of Producers Supply Co-op at its new location at 2114 20<sup>th</sup> Street North in Nampa, the reopening of Caldwell Orthodontics Associates at

its new location at 3611 South 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Caldwell, and the groundbreaking of a new Home Federal Savings bank at 923 Dearborn in Caldwell.

#### **Elmore County**

- The Mountain Home School District announced in late May that it would not lay off any teachers for the 2003-2004 school year. The district had already placed a number of teachers on the Reduction in Force list, but took them off of the list last week as district officials decided that the budget shortfall could be taken care of through attrition. Several one-year contracts will not be renewed and some teachers retired this year, allowing the district to keep teachers currently under contract.

#### **Gem County**

- The Cottages assisted living facility opened a second building on its property located on the corner of East Twelfth Street and Judo Lane in Emmett. The Cottages can accommodate about 30 residents.
- King's Discount Department Store opened in Emmett recently. The store is located at 111 Highway 16, and is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- In early May, a \$170,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, was approved by Governor Dirk Kempthorne for the community of Emmett. The money will add a five-bay addition to the front of the Gem County Emergency Services building. The addition will make room for the department's four ambulances and allow room for a fifth. The existing building will be remodeled to house two bedrooms, two restrooms with showers, a kitchenette, a day room, an office, a storage room, and a training room. The funds for the project will be available in July.

#### **Valley County**

- The Cascade Rural Fire District broke ground in mid-May on an addition to its current facility. The addition will extend from the south side of the current fire station on Front and Pine Streets in Cascade. The new facility will include space for seven emergency vehicles, storage, and possibly a second story with offices, a kitchen, and classroom space. The addition is scheduled for completion in November.

- The Hunt Lodge, a Holiday Inn Express, opened on May 15 in McCall. The 85-room hotel opened on Third Street across from the Pancake House. The hotel has a pool, spa, fitness room, breakfast facility, and a meeting room that can accommodate 200 people.
- Whitetail Club reopened on May 15 in McCall. The resort is still restricted to members and guests, but there are lower rates on room rentals. Whitetail officials also announced that it would remain open during the winter to cater to winter recreation activists and offer seasonal packages for skiing, golf, hunting, and other getaways. Whitetail golf course opened on June 1.
- Tamarack officials recently announced that the resort would open its hills for skiing on December 23, 2003, which is a year earlier than originally scheduled. Foundation work is scheduled to start in July on the site with the towers installed in September. Installation of two high-speed detachable four-person chairlifts and a platter lift are scheduled for this summer. The first phase of the resort also includes an 18-hole golf course, a 22-kilometer Nordic skiing trail system, 60 ski-in and ski-out private lots, 20 chalets, hiking and mountain biking trails, and a private resort club.
- Brundage Mountain Resort was recently granted approval to proceed with expansion plans this summer. The resort expects to start in July on a project to clear a number of new runs, expand the parking lots, and construct access roads for new lifts.

#### **Washington County**

- The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest (NOFTC) and National Oldtime Fiddlers' Association moved to its new location at 115 West Idaho Street in Weiser, the former Weiser Pump & Pipe Building. The move marks the first time in the 51-year history of the national fiddling contest that the support organization will have its own office. The NOFTC recently shared office space with the Weiser Chamber of Commerce.

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# MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2003 in the Magic Valley Labor Market Area was 4.3 percent. This is four-tenths of a percentage point higher than March 2002 and one-tenth of a percentage point higher than a year ago, according to Magic Valley Table 1. The *Civilian Labor Force* was 240 workers lower from March 2003 to April 2003, but was 2,690 greater year-over-year.

Most sectors showed marked increases from April 2002 to April 2003. *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased 6.1 percent from 2002 to 2003. Many sectors showed double-digit increases year-over-year. The largest increases over the year were in *Educational & Health Services*, *Food Manufacturing*, and *Manufacturing* with increases of 22.0, 16.6, and 12.9 percent, respectively. The only sectors that showed decreases were *Government Education*, *Utilities*, and *Wholesale Trade* with decreases of 9.4, 4.8, and 0.5 percent, respectively.

Employment increases have been consistent among the sectors, which is positive with regard to diversification. The *Retail* sector, which had been showing some decline in the last four months is now starting to recover and with two new retailers opening in Twin Falls, the outlook for this sector is very good. The Magic Valley economy has not been immune to recessionary tendencies and some small businesses have closed in various sectors. However, these losses have been more than offset in job creation and, consequently, are not so apparent. Overall, the Magic Valley enjoys one of the more vibrant economies in Idaho. The reason for such growth is multi-faceted. Outstanding regional co-operation in economic development, excellent consumer confidence, and, with the exception of the 108 layoffs at Moore North American, no major layoffs that can cause severe blows to an economy have taken place. The Mini-Cassia economy has severe problems with many

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding Counties

	April 2003*	March 2003	April 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	53,760	54,000	51,070	-0.4	5.3
Unemployment	2,290	2,100	2,140	9.0	7.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	3.9	4.2		
Total Employment	51,470	51,900	48,930	-0.8	5.2
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	53,150	53,030	50,244	0.2	5.8
Unemployment	2,190	2,330	2,030	-6.0	7.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.4	4.0		
Total Employment	50,960	50,700	48,214	0.5	5.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	41,430	40,820	39,050	1.5	6.1
<b>Goods-Providing Industries</b>	7,700	7,730	6,850	-0.4	12.4
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,060	2,090	1,850	-1.4	11.4
Manufacturing	5,610	5,610	4,970	0.0	12.9
Food Manufacturing	3,650	3,680	3,130	-0.8	16.6
Other Manufacturing	1,960	1,930	1,840	1.6	6.5
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	33,730	33,090	32,200	1.9	4.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,100	9,850	9,720	2.5	3.9
Wholesale Trade	1,810	1,820	1,820	-0.5	-0.5
Retail Trade	5,890	5,810	5,720	1.4	3.0
Utilities	200	180	210	11.1	-4.8
Transportation & Warehousing	2,200	2,040	1,970	7.8	11.7
Information	500	490	500	2.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1,770	1,700	1,600	4.1	10.6
Professional & Business Services	5,120	5,020	4,700	2.0	8.9
Educational & Health Services	3,600	3,560	2,950	1.1	22.0
Leisure & Hospitality	3,450	3,340	3,440	3.3	0.3
Other Services	1,430	1,430	1,380	0.0	3.6
Government Education	3,580	3,560	3,950	0.6	-9.4
Government Administration	4,180	4,140	3,960	1.0	5.6

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

layoffs that have actually occurred or are pending, yet the economy has not collapsed, which is a tribute to the resiliency of the people and their willingness to buy products locally. Unfortunately, with additional layoffs looming, the bottom of the business cycle has not been reached in that area.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Twin Falls County

- Two new major retailers have signed agreements to open in Twin Falls in either 2003 or 2004. Best Buy has leased an existing 24,000-square-foot retail space in the Canyon Park project. Best Buy will open as soon as tenant improvements can be made. It will employ between 50 and 100 full- and part-time workers. Sportsmen's Warehouse will build a 45,000-square-foot free-standing facility on the far eastern edge of the Canyon Project. The company plans to begin hiring in late July or early



August with an opening projected for Labor Day weekend. It expects to employ approximately 65 full- and part-time employees.

- Allison Mills, Inc., a Filer-based warehouse that bought and sold dairy feedstuffs, closed in May. Citing low milk prices, the company filed a voluntary Chapter 7 (liquidation) bankruptcy. This closure displaced approximately ten workers.
- The New Business Plus III program has met its first year goal of \$1.43 million. Business Plus III is a team of economic development groups and local businesses from six counties working together to help recruit new businesses and encourage business expansion in a six-county area of South Central Idaho. This program is an extension and enhancement of the former Business Plus II program sponsored by the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce. Of the funding, \$1 million will be used for business attraction and business expansion, \$250,000 for regional marketing by the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization, and \$40,000 for operation and overhead expense. The current list of investors includes 56 from Twin Falls and nine from the Mini-Cassia area representing the regional cooperation of this effort. Business Plus III's goal is to bring 2,000 more jobs in technology, manufacturing, business services, agriculture, food processing, transportation and distribution to Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls Counties.

#### **Blaine, Camas, Gooding, and Jerome Counties**

- Moore Corporation, Limited (also called Moore Business Forms) announced its intentions to close its Jerome plant, permanently displacing 108 workers. Moore recently completed a merger with Wallace Computer Services, Inc. The merger created an overproduction problem, according to company officials, resulting in the plant's closure. The closure is to take place in mid-July, and the company will supply severance packages to some of the workers, although who will be compensated and by how much has not been determined.
- Rite Stuff Foods, Inc. will move its corporate headquarters from Downey, California, to Jerome. The company expects its 1,500-square-foot remodel to be completed soon and will hire an additional three or four people for its headquarters staff. Rite Stuff, which makes specialty frozen products such as twice-baked potatoes and potato skins, started production in Jerome in May 1999. The plant now employs nearly 100 people.
- The Walker Center in Gooding held the grand opening of its new facility in Gooding in late May. The new facility is 43,000-square feet, and has 32 beds for adults and 16 beds for adolescents. The facility employs 40-50 people. Part of the financing was provided by a Community Development Block

Grant originated by Region IV Development Association, which was approved by Governor Dirk Kempthorne through the Idaho Department of Commerce.

- POWER Engineers of Hailey and Boise will assist Perini Corporation to rebuild facilities in the U.S. Central Command's area of operations overseas. Perini is one of three firms awarded contracts by the Army Corps of Engineers, Transatlantic Programs Center. Under a separate Corps contract, POWER will also support Perini Corporation on various design-build facilities for the graduating battalions of the Afghanistan National Army in Afghanistan.
- Warm weather, terrorism fears, and a lackluster economy combined to make this a below-average ski season at Sun Valley. Skier numbers were 367,631 in 2002-2003 as compared to 405,700 in 2001-2002. Local option taxes (LOTs) were down significantly. In March, lodging receipts were down 20 percent, liquor-related receipts fell 12 percent, and retail receipts were also down 12 percent. This totaled a 17 percent drop in LOTs for March. Extremely warm weather in January hurt skiing, although the early season snowfall was excellent. Impending war with Iraq and corresponding terrorism fears also slowed tourism in March.

#### **Minidoka and Cassia Counties**

- Voters in the City of Burley approved two sewer bond issues that will ultimately result in doubling the existing sewer capacity in the city. The bonds passed by 87 percent and 79 percent, respectively. The first bond was an \$18 million mandate to place the city in compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards, as the city was not in compliance and faced EPA fines. This bond required only a simple majority. The second bond of \$7 million will double the capacity of the city sewer to five million gallons. This bond required a two-thirds super majority. The passage of these bonds will immediately create approximately 100 construction jobs that will be a boon to the local economy. The contractor has pledged to use local businesses in subcontracting roles. In addition, the area will gain the sewer and wastewater treatment capacity it has been lacking, which has inhibited many economic development efforts. The sewer system improvements will provide local economic developers with the infrastructure to accompany the excellent local labor force in efforts to attract new and viable businesses to the area.

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# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

In April 2003, the mild winter came to a halt and a cold, wet front settled throughout Southeast Idaho. Inclement weather halted farming activities and delayed construction projects, driving the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate up two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.2 percent from March's revised rate of 5.0 percent. The remarkable change was in the year-over-year difference. The rate fell two percentage points from the April 2002 rate of 7.2 percent. The rate reduction shows that many of the workers who lost their jobs late in 2001 and early in 2002 have found employment. In April 2003, 680 fewer individuals were unemployed than in April 2002. While the number of individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force* increased 4.5 percent over the year, the number of individuals who found employment increased at a faster rate of 6.7 percent. The *Civilian Labor Force* increased as one-income-households became two-income households because some people who lost their jobs during the economic recession could not find employment that paid enough to sustain their families and non-working spouses had to obtain employment.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 100 from March 2003 to April 2003. The increase in April 2003 was because of construction and service related activity. From April 2002, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 850. Much of the increase was in *Construction*, but significant increases occurred in *Leisure and Hospitality* and *Other Services* as winter recreation activities continued well into the month. The move of more than 400 jobs from *Health Services* to *Government Administration* was because two hospitals in Pocatello merged.

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	April 2003*	March 2003	April 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	41,290	41,410	39,500	-0.3	4.5
Unemployment	2,150	2,070	2,830	3.9	-24.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	5.0	7.2		
Total Employment	39,140	39,340	36,670	-0.5	6.7
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	41,930	42,210	39,780	-0.7	5.4
Unemployment	2,160	2,310	2,830	-6.5	-23.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	5.5	7.1		
Total Employment	39,770	39,900	36,950	-0.3	7.6
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	33,950	33,850	33,100	0.3	2.6
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,430	4,370	4,160	1.4	6.5
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	20	0.0	-50.0
Construction	1,780	1,720	1,500	3.5	18.7
Manufacturing	2,640	2,640	2,640	0.0	0.0
Food Manufacturing	430	430	480	0.0	-10.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	140	130	110	7.7	27.3
Machinery Manufacturing	40	40	30	0.0	33.3
Other Manufacturing	2,030	2,040	2,020	-0.5	0.5
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	29,520	29,480	28,940	0.1	2.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,700	6,710	6,620	-0.1	1.2
Wholesale Trade	1,060	1,070	1,060	-0.9	0.0
Retail Trade	4,370	4,370	4,310	0.0	1.4
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,220	1,220	1,200	0.0	1.7
Information	670	680	670	-1.5	0.0
Financial Activities	1,720	1,700	1,820	1.2	-5.5
Professional & Business Services	3,400	3,360	3,400	1.2	0.0
Educational & Health Services	2,710	2,720	3,060	-0.4	-11.4
Leisure & Hospitality	3,270	3,240	3,080	0.9	6.2
Other Services	1,360	1,310	1,190	3.8	14.3
Government Education	5,510	5,610	5,530	-1.8	-0.4
Government Administration	4,180	4,150	3,570	0.7	17.1

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

## AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

### Bannock County

One of the highlights thus far in 2003 was increased construction activity from January through March 2003 over January through March 2002. Construction permit values, as reported in Wells Fargo Bank's Idaho Construction Report of March 2003, reached \$20 million compared to \$8 million in 2002. The largest gain, \$11,520,141, was in non-residential construction because several new businesses were completed this spring.

- American Microsystems Incorporated Semiconductor (AMIS) opened a \$4.5 million engineering and research center on Alvin

Ricken Drive in Pocatello. The 30,800-square-foot center houses approximately 180 employees and is located near the company's manufacturing facility. At the ribbon cutting and press conference for the new facility, AMIS President Christine King announced that the company plans to increase its workforce by 100 workers. Approximately 40 workers have been hired and another 40-90 workers should be hired by the end of the year.

- The U-Joint built a new \$350,000 Super Store at 215 East Cedar in Pocatello. The 7,000-square-foot facility, which opened in May, replaced the business' two smaller facilities at one location. Another 7,200-square feet of space at the new location is available for lease. The business employs 12 people.
- Bannock Animal Medical Center (BAMC) opened in Chubbuck in May. The 7,000-square-foot clinic offers the latest in-house diagnostic and treatment capabilities. BAMC is located at 5262 North Yellowstone Avenue and employs six people.
- Virginia Transformer Corporation purchased U.S. Transformer West in Pocatello. The acquisition reinstated more than 50 jobs that were lost because of the U.S. Transformer West closure. Virginia Transformer Corporation's operation in Pocatello will be known as VTCU Corporation.

#### **Bingham County**

Construction activity from January through March 2003 reached over \$11 million and exceeded January through March 2002 when it topped out at under \$5 million. The largest gain was in non-residential construction (\$7.2 million), which was more than double the value of residential construction (\$3.5 million).

- The Blackfoot Chamber held a ribbon cutting for the new Blackfoot School District Technology Center. The center is located at 555 South Broadway and provides technology resources for students, teachers, businesses, and the community. The center has a computer lab for on-site training and distance learning capabilities.
- Indian Motorcycle of Blackfoot opened at 410 South Broadway in Blackfoot. The business sells custom made and painted American Performance Cycles and Indian Motorcycles. In addition to the showroom and sales facility the business includes a service center and waiting area, and a camping and picnic area for motorcycle travelers.

- A new business, Hook-N-Up, opened at 69 South Broadway in Blackfoot. The unique business sells cellular phones, accessories, and service; serves as a payment center for Qwest and Teton Wireless; sells and rents bottled water and water coolers; sells bulk coffee; and sells specialty coffee drinks, soft drinks, and morning toast.
- Site preparation work began in May on the new Mountain River Medical Clinic Birthing and Surgical Center. The new medical center will be located on North Meridian Street in Blackfoot.
- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes broke ground on a new commodity storage building. The 8,990-square-foot building will include a conference room and kitchen area for cooking demonstrations, an office, and storage space. The \$248,000 facility should be complete by mid-July.

#### **Franklin County**

Construction activity from January through March 2003 reached just over \$2 million and fell from January through March 2002 when it was near \$8 million. Residential construction gained more the \$700,000 over last year, but non-residential construction was down nearly \$300,000 from last year.

#### **Caribou County – Bear Lake County – Power County**

Construction projects in Power County, Soda Springs City, and Bear Lake City from January through March 2003, as reported by Wells Fargo's Idaho Construction Report, fell from the same period in 2002. Power County dropped from over \$600,000 in 2002 to just \$34,000 in 2003. Montpelier City fell from \$60,000 in nonresidential construction last year to no construction activity in 2003. Soda Springs City fell from \$85,000 in 2002 to \$2,600 in 2003. Despite the reductions in construction, each of the counties and cities are undergoing downtown revitalization projects, and community/economic developers are aggressively pursuing new business and tourism to boost their rural economies.

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# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) increased two-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 3.8 percent in April as seen in Northeast Table 1. Year-over-year, the LMA's unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point. The rate in all four counties that comprise the LMA increased, though they were well below the state's unemployment rate, ranging between 3.5 to 4.6 percent; Butte County showed the largest percentage increase at five-tenths of a percentage point. Year-over-year, the counties all showed decreases in the unemployment rate with the exception of an increase of seven-tenths of a percentage point in Butte County. Because Butte County has a low population, the unemployment rates can fluctuate with very small changes; the number of unemployed persons increased by nine from March to April and the *Civilian Labor Force* dropped by only one person. From April 2002, the number of unemployed persons in Butte County only increased by 11. Changes at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) also have been a factor in the rate change. See *State Table 1 on page 3 for April 2003 county and LMA labor force data.*

Other counties in Northeast Idaho experienced changes over the month, but most increases and decreases involved industries directly or indirectly related to farming activity. Teton County showed the largest increase over the month while in a lull between winter and summer tourism seasons. Year-over-year, there was very little change with the exception of Custer County, which decreased 2.2 percentage points. The county was still feeling the effects of mine layoffs in the rate

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	April 2003*	March 2003	April 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	82,940	83,660	82,790	-0.9	0.2
Unemployment	3,170	3,010	3,340	5.3	-5.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.6	4.0		
Total Employment	79,770	80,660	79,440	-1.1	0.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	81,640	81,650	82,190	0.0	-0.7
Unemployment	2,920	3,350	3,020	-12.8	-3.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	4.1	3.7		
Total Employment	78,720	78,310	79,170	0.5	-0.6
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	62,340	61,820	62,080	0.8	0.4
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	9,920	9,370	9,330	5.9	6.3
Natural Resources & Mining	70	60	80	16.7	-12.5
Construction	4,580	4,050	4,120	13.1	11.2
Manufacturing	5,270	5,260	5,130	0.2	2.7
Food Manufacturing	2,690	2,690	2,880	0.0	-6.6
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	290	290	250	0.0	16.0
Machinery Manufacturing	450	460	400	-2.2	12.5
Other Manufacturing	1,840	1,820	1,600	1.1	15.0
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	52,420	52,450	52,750	-0.1	-0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,850	13,980	14,500	-0.9	-4.5
Wholesale Trade	4,750	4,790	5,150	-0.8	-7.8
Retail Trade	7,280	7,340	7,700	-0.8	-5.5
Utilities	100	110	100	-9.1	0.0
Transportation	1,720	1,740	1,550	-1.1	11.0
Information	830	800	940	3.8	-11.7
Financial Activities	2,050	2,050	2,080	0.0	-1.4
Professional & Business Services	11,460	11,450	11,710	0.1	-2.1
Educational & Health Services	6,250	6,280	5,890	-0.5	6.1
Leisure & Hospitality	4,660	4,600	4,570	1.3	2.0
Other Services	2,240	2,210	2,260	1.4	-0.9
Government Education	5,140	5,210	5,150	-1.3	-0.2
Government Administration	5,940	5,870	5,650	1.2	5.1

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

reflected in 2002. Idaho Falls, the largest city in Northeast Idaho and the LMA, increased three-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month, but showed no change from April 2002 with a current unemployment rate of 3.8 percent.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in the LMA increased by 520 from the previous month for a total of 62,340 jobs. Again, *Construction* is the single largest contributor with a gain of 530 jobs overriding losses mostly seen in the *Service-Providing Industries*. *Retail Trade* lost 60 jobs from March to April during the slower selling season, while *Government Education* lost 70 jobs with statewide budget cuts tightening up the education process.

Year-over-year, the LMA showed a job increase of only 260 jobs, with large changes noted in various industries. *Construction* continues

to be strong, particularly in Bonneville and Jefferson Counties, in both residential and commercial sectors, and shows an increase from April 2002 of 460 jobs. Significant gains also occurred in *Educational and Health Services* (360 jobs) with the expansion of Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, as well as new offices in specialized medicine that have moved into the area. Mountain View Hospital also started operation on a smaller scale in the fall of 2002. *Government Administration* experienced an increase of 290 jobs with a nearly non-existent winter and very early spring allowing early clean-up and beautification projects to begin. *Wholesale Trade* and *Retail Trade* combined lost 820 jobs, some from trickling effects of national economic activity. *Professional and Business Services* lost 250 jobs, again from the national economic activity and from earlier layoffs at the INEEL. Although a loss of 190 jobs was seen in the *Food Manufacturing* sector of *Manufacturing*, gains in the other sectors prevailed to show an overall gain of 140 jobs in *Manufacturing*.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- North Wind Construction was launched by parent company North Wind, Inc., a company specializing in remediation and environmental services. The new division was created to give the company greater flexibility, better quality control, and faster customer service for the many construction tasks the company had previously hired subcontractors to do. The company will now be able to satisfy customers with civil engineering and other construction needs. Mark See, division manager, has 18 years of experience in heavy civil construction, mining, tunneling, and remediation/reclamation projects.
- Two new restaurants will be opening in Ammon: Chuck-A-Rama and Golden Corral. Chuck-A-Rama buffet will open near the new Wal-Mart location on Hitt Road. The restaurant specializes in scratch cooking using fresh produce, and avoids using mixes, powders, or frozen produce. Chuck-A-Rama was founded in 1966 in Salt-Lake City. This location will be the company's tenth restaurant. Golden Corral buffet is opening at the corner of Sunnyside and Hitt Roads. Golden Corral is a franchised family steakhouse restaurant known nationwide, but is found most frequently in the southern states. Both restaurants are expected to celebrate their openings no later than November.
- Master glassblower and Idaho Falls native Dick Burkhalter opened a new shop at 545 Shoup Avenue, Suite 107 (the remodeled Rogers Hotel). Burkhalter has over 30 years experience in glassblowing and has spent the past 16 years in Arizona at his trade. His business hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
- TrendWest of Redmond, Washington, opened a sales office on Jennie Lee Drive in Idaho Falls. The company specializes in vacation rentals at resorts in the U. S., Mexico, Canada, Australia, and Fiji. The company uses a credit system that allows clients to enjoy visits at multiple resorts without being locked into any one location. The company is a subsidiary of Cedant Corporation of New York. Other Cedant subsidiaries include Century 21, Coldwell Banker, and ERA, hotel chains such as Howard Johnson and Super 8, Avis and Budget car rental companies, and Jackson Hewitt tax preparers.
- Argonne National Laboratory and Bechtel BWXT, Idaho (both companies of the INEEL) are experiencing layoffs. Argonne laid off approximately 20 Idaho employees in May. The facility, operated by the University of Chicago, specializes in nuclear fuel research and energy security. Most workers were in technical support and the company stated layoffs were necessary to change its mix of workers. Bechtel announced that it could lay off several hundred workers between now and into the winter as it also reorganizes, mainly to dissolve new projects set up before changes in its mission were announced. Between 100 to 500 employees or more could be affected by the series of layoffs.
- The North Forty Family Fun Center located on North Yellowstone Highway in Idaho Falls has expanded its package of fun. Over the last six months, the center revamped the miniature golf course into a Hillbilly Olympics theme, installed a mechanical bull, and added entertainment to its weekends. Karaoke is offered Friday nights and live bands perform on Saturdays. Since it is designed for families, the environment is both smoke-free and alcohol-free. Hillbilly Olympics includes Frisbee throwing, horseshoe pitching, and rubber chicken throwing. Visit [www.northfortyfun.com](http://www.northfortyfun.com) for more information.

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# Ask the Economist

*This column addresses common questions that our readers have on the data we gather and provide. Please send your questions, comments, or suggestions via e-mail to [lmi@jobservice.us](mailto:lmi@jobservice.us) or U.S. Postal Service mail to Public Affairs, Idaho Department of Labor, 317 W. Main St., Boise, ID 83735.*

***Q: How much has the cost of living changed in my area in the last year?***

Unfortunately, that is not a question that can be answered with 100 percent accuracy. No federal or state statistical agency develops changes in the cost of living measures for Idaho communities. Although Wells Fargo economist Kelly Matthews, based in Salt Lake City, estimates the cost of living for the Boise area, no one has developed estimates for other parts of the state.

When people want to know how much the cost of living has changed for Idaho communities, they must rely on the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI), published monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The U.S. CPI is the average for the metropolitan areas where the CPI survey is conducted. It is a measure of the average change over time in prices paid for a specified basket of consumer goods and services. It is widely used as an economic indicator, as a deflator so that people can see the “real” (adjusted for inflation) change in dollar amounts, and as a common means of adjusting for changes in the cost of living, including escalation clauses that automatically increase wages or other payments based on the CPI.

According to BLS, “An index is a tool that simplifies the measurement of movements in a numerical series. Most of the CPI indexes have a 1982-84 reference base. That is, BLS sets the average index level (representing the average price level)—for the 36-month period covering the years 1982, 1983, and 1984—equal to 100. The Bureau measures changes in relation to that figure. An index of 110, for example, means there has been a 10 percent increase in price since the reference period; similarly an index of 90 means a 10 percent decrease.”

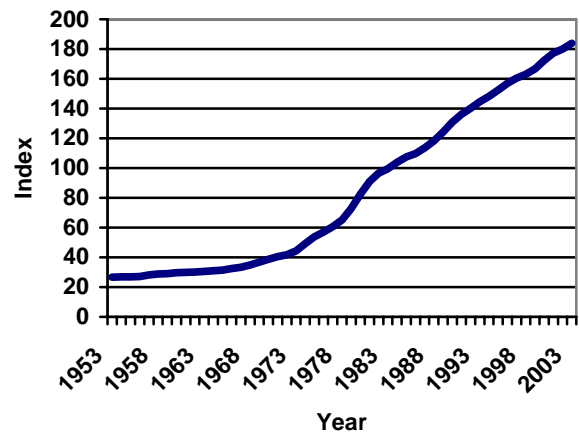
**Why the U.S. index?** Consumer price indexes are available for only 26 metropolitan areas in the United States, including two in the Pacific Northwest (Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, Washington, and Portland-Salem, Oregon). BLS publishes information for only three metropolitan areas (Chicago, Los Angeles, New York) every month. It publishes Seattle’s index every other month and Portland’s index every six months.

Why isn’t there CPI information for smaller communities, including Idaho communities? The answer is simple—tracking price data is extremely expensive because

it requires extensive and frequent surveys to track prices on hundreds of consumer items.

Some Idahoans use the Portland or Seattle indexes on the assumption that, because Portland and Seattle are closer to Idaho, their consumer prices must move most similarly to Idaho’s. That’s probably not a good assumption. The coastal area of the Pacific Northwest often experiences very different price movements than the inland area of the Pacific Northwest. It’s entirely possible for housing costs or taxes in Portland or Seattle to move differently than housing costs or taxes in Boise, Coeur d’Alene, or Pocatello. The BLS warns that city indexes tend to be much more volatile—moving up or down more abruptly—than the national or regional indexes. Although the regional West’s CPI is less volatile than a particular city’s index, it is heavily influenced by Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other metropolitan areas where prices sometimes move very differently than Idaho’s. It’s more likely that an Idaho community’s cost of living will change in a similar fashion to the U.S. average than the index of any one city or the West.

**U.S. Consumer Price Index  
(100=1982-84)**



Sometimes Idaho Department of Labor customers argue that this comparison to the U.S. average can’t be very accurate because the cost of living in Idaho is considerably lower than in most of the U.S. While it’s true that the cost of living in most Idaho communities is considerably below the national cost of living, their argument isn’t sound. The CPI measures the rate of increase in the cost of living, not the level of the cost of living. So, even though the level of the cost of living in Idaho may

be low, this doesn't mean that it isn't increasing at about the same rate as the U.S. cost of living.

The only time that the U.S. CPI will not accurately reflect price changes in an Idaho community is when something unusual is happening to housing costs or energy costs in that community. For example, in the early 1990s, the U.S. was in a recession, housing costs were rising very slowly in most U.S. communities and even falling in a few metropolitan areas. Idaho, however, was riding the peak of the population boom; housing costs were rising at a strong clip and were increasing much faster than the national average. At that time, it was wise to remember that the cost of living in most Idaho communities probably was rising faster than the CPI.

**Should I use CPI-U or CPI-W?** There are two types of Consumer Price Indexes—one based on the spending patterns of *all* urban consumers (CPI-U) and one based on urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI-W). According to BLS, "The CPI-U represents about 87 percent of the total U.S. population. It is based on the expenditures of almost all residents of urban or metropolitan areas, including professionals, the self-employed, the poor, the unemployed, and retired persons as well as urban wage earners and clerical workers. The CPI-W is based on the expenditures of households that are included in the CPI-U definition that also meet two requirements: More than one-half of the household's income must come from clerical or wage occupations and at least one of the household's earners must have been employed for at least 37 weeks during the previous 12 months. The CPI-W's population represents about 32 percent of the total U.S. population and is a subset, or part, of the CPI-U's population."

The CPI-U is the index that is most widely used, so it is quoted in the media. It is a newer measure, introduced in the 1990s, to better reflect price changes for a wider portion of the population. Unless you have an old contract stipulating that you use CPI-W, or you are especially interested in wage earners and clerical workers, use the CPI-U index.

**So how much did the U.S. CPI increase in the last year?** Because the CPI is published every month, you can do a comparison of the changes between any month in the period from January 1913 to the most recent month. For example, the most currently available Consumer Price Index is for April 2003, when it was 183.8. A year before, in April 2002, it was 179.8. That means it increased  $(183.8/179.8 \times 100 - 100 =)$  2.2 percent in the last year.

**Avoiding a big mistake:** The most common mistake made by new CPI users is to try to calculate a rate of inflation by subtracting the index numbers from each other, but indexes are similar to compound interest rates, so you must use division to calculate the rate of

inflation. These mistakes can be fairly large, even in the current low-inflation environment. For example, if you subtract the April 2002 index number from the April 2003 index number, you would get 4 percent, suggesting that inflation was considerably higher than the normal level of recent years and much higher than it actually was between April 2002 and April 2003. If you are comparing the indexes over a long period of time, especially one that includes a period of high inflation like the 1970s, it can make a huge difference. Let's say that you wanted to see how much consumer prices have increased in the last thirty years, so you calculate the increase in consumer prices between April 1973 and April 2003. In April 1973, the CPI was 43.6. If you incorrectly used subtraction, you would think that prices increased 140.2 percent. If you correctly divide 183.8 by 43.6 and then multiply by 100 to turn it into a percent, and then subtract 100 to get the change, you find the true rate of inflation was 321.6 percent—more than twice as fast as the incorrectly subtracted numbers suggested.

**Putting together a formal escalation clause:** Often when people draft formal escalation clauses for rental agreements, labor contracts, or other purposes, they write them in such a way as to provoke future arguments about exactly what index should be used and how. Before writing such a clause, you may want to consult the BLS pamphlet "How to Use the Consumer Price Index for Escalation" at: [www.bls.gov/cpi/cpi1998d](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/cpi1998d).

**Just Ask the Economist:** If you know exactly what you're looking for, it's easy to find CPI information on the web. It's under "Income and Wages" at the Idaho Labor Market Information (iLMI) website ([www.jobservice.ws](http://www.jobservice.ws)) or the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi)). But if you don't know exactly what you're looking for or aren't confident about how to make calculations using the CPI, feel free to call one of the Idaho Department of Labor's economists who are more than happy to help you find the information that best meets your needs. Our phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed throughout this publication. We encourage you to *Ask the Economist* any time you have a question about Idaho's economy.

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Seaport Table 2: Projected Employment Opportunities			
Occupational Title	Wage Hourly Average	Level of Trng Education	Education or Training Level
Accountants and auditors	\$17.52	5	Bachelor's degree
Adjustment clerks	\$9.86	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Automotive mechanics and service technicians	\$12.49	7	Postsecondary vocational training
Bank tellers	\$7.96	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Bartenders	\$6.19	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Bill and account collectors	\$8.89	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	\$9.98	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Bus drivers, school	\$8.49	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Cashiers	\$7.14	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Child care workers	\$6.49	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Computer engineers	\$25.20	5	Bachelor's degree
Computer support specialists	\$15.52	6	Associate degree
Construction managers	\$24.24	5	Bachelor's degree
Cooks, institution or cafeteria	\$7.58	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Cooks, restaurant	\$7.33	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Counter clerks	\$7.15	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Dental assistants	\$10.21	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Electrical and electronic technicians and technologists	\$15.97	6	Associate degree
Electrical and electronics engineers	\$28.10	5	Bachelor's degree
Electricians	\$16.97	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Financial managers	\$24.71	4	Work experience plus degree
Guards	\$9.39	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Hand packers and packagers	\$6.87	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	\$14.17	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Insurance claims clerks	\$10.95	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Laborers, landscaping and groundskeeping	\$8.33	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Maintenance repairers, general utility	\$11.20	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	\$7.63	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Office clerks, general	\$9.11	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Painters and paperhangers	\$10.09	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	\$16.67	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Police patrol officers	\$14.13	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Receptionists and information clerks	\$8.80	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Registered nurses	\$18.89	6	Associate degree
Retail salespersons	\$9.68	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Roofers	\$11.98	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Secretaries, except legal and medical	\$10.03	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	\$10.86	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Systems analysts	\$23.37	5	Bachelor's degree
Teachers, elementary school	\$18.86	5	Bachelor's degree
Teachers, secondary school	\$19.33	5	Bachelor's degree
Waiters and waitresses	\$5.68	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Welders and cutters	\$11.97	9	Long-term on-the-job training

# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

**Agriculture Employment:** Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

**Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours:** The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Average Weekly Earnings:** Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

**Civilian Labor Force:** A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

**Covered Employers:** Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

**Durable Goods:** Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

**Employed:** Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

**Initial Claim:** Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**Labor Market Area (LMA):** An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

**Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA):** An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

**Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment:** Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

**Nondurable Goods:** Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

**Unemployed:** Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment Insurance:** Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

**Weekly Benefit Amount:** The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

**Weeks Claimed:** The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

**Weeks Compensated:** The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.